

Evening Telegraph

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SATURDAY, MARCH 27, 1869.

What is Retrenchment and Reform? There is a committee of the State Senate at Harrisburg which is called by the high-sounding title of the "Committee on Retrenchment and Reform," and the ostensible duty of which is to seek perpetually for a reformation of the existing abuses at the Capitol. What such a committee is tolerated for in such a place is a hidden mystery; and if it showed the least symptom of carrying into effect the object of its creation, we feel sure it would speedily be abolished. As it is, it is found a pleasant recreation to have a burying ground in which to inter the various buncombe measures of reform which public policy required should be from time to time introduced. It would never do to defeat them; so if they are in reality an improvement, they can be safely killed by a referendum. Now the "Committee on Retrenchment and Reform" have been cogitating an entire session over the salaries of public officers and the expenses of government, and as the public complaint has become a little too strong to be treated with contempt, have made a report. We published a synopsis of it yesterday in our later editions, and from it we are enabled to judge of the nature of the reform proposed. The mountain has been laboring, and has brought forth a mouse. The report of the committee, after cutting out glittering generalities which mean nothing, amounts simply to this:—The salaries of the various public officers ought to be cut down. "All right!" say the people. "That sounds like reform, and deserves consideration." Now what public officers are provided for in this bill? "The richest, of course," say the people. Not at all. Poor ignorant, men! You know nothing of the way reforms are conducted at Harrisburg, if you suppose the influential are to be reached. It is the clerks and messengers of the various departments that are to be reduced. Clerks who now work for a whole year for \$1800 are to get \$1500; those who get \$1500, after having been in the service for years, are now to get \$1200 per annum; while the \$1200 ones are to get \$1000. So also with the messengers. Men who devote all the year to faithful service are to get \$700 in place of \$900. This is the great reform. This is the cardinal measure which General Harry White has been favoring for several months. The richest officers are not touched. The fees of the State Treasurer are not put into the State Treasury. The salaries of the members of the State Legislature are not cut down in proportion. Not at all. They are only made "permanent." The hangers-on around the halls of legislation are not to be trimmed off, as they richly deserve. The postmen and folders are not to go uncompensated. A change is recommended in regard to legislative appropriations, but it is not found in the bill as reported. It is only the worst paid subordinates who are affected.

Now let us look at the result of this great "reform." It is said it will save \$20,000 per annum. It will do no such thing. It will, at the most liberal estimate, not amount to \$12,000 a year. Now let us look at some of those other slight leaks which are not stopped by the committee in their report, and, after looking at these, we will leave it to our readers whether the retrenchment report does not "take in at the spigot and let out at the bung-hole," as a homely adage has it. What were the expenses of the two houses of the Legislature last year? The Senate spent, as the Auditor-General's report shows, \$119,770.95; the House spent \$233,454.51. Total legislative expenses, \$353,225.46. What does the committee of General White say to these figures? Is there no room for reform here? Can't more be saved than by cutting down poorly-paid clerks? In three months the Legislature spend \$353,000. At that rate the annual expenses would be \$1,400,000. Why not begin at home, Mr. Billingfelt, and save here? Let us look at the items of these fabulous figures. The members get \$1000 each. The report of the committee recommends the continuance of their pay at that figure. This would be \$4000 a year, for they receive \$1000 for three months' service. Four thousand dollars a year to each member! For what? Misrepresenting their constituents, passing bad laws, and defeating or neglecting good ones! Yet \$1200 is too much for a faithful and honest clerk! If reform don't mean buncombe, let the \$1000 be cut down to \$500. That would be saving \$32,000 a year, and be a just reduction. Again, the mileage to the Senators last year was \$3547 and to the members \$7308, total \$10,855. As every man of these rides on a free pass, and don't spend one cent for travel, we think that this sum could be dispensed with. In fact, if practical retrenchment is meant, let the members commence at the beginning and not at the end. The \$220 a year saved by cutting off the messenger, who has a large family and works all the year, is not the reduction the people demand. No one wants an attaché to work for less than a fair compensation, and the popular sentiment will not encourage such "reform" as this. If they are going to make reductions, out off the postmen and folders, the lockers and lockers who surround the Capitol, and then if yet greater economy is needed cut off the salaries of every officer, including messengers, say ten or twenty per cent. This is the way to discriminate against the worst

paid, and leave the members at the rate of \$4000 a year, is not retrenchment: it is unjust and penurious discrimination. The people will give no credit for such reform as this.

Who Has the Power to Nominat Office-Holders?

Public attention has been of late much occupied in watching the action of the Senators and Representatives at Washington, in regard to the treatment of applicants for official positions, and of their sentiments in regard to their right to the distribution of patronage. That much interest should be felt in their actions is natural, and that considerable surprise should follow the development of their opinions need not be deemed singular. As we have no personal feeling in the matter, no personal ends to subserve, nor any bitterness to cause resentment, we can afford to view the claims of the members of Congress in the light of calm discussion and not of feeling. The caucuses of the Pennsylvania members, we are told, agreed to ask the President to let each member who is a Republican name all the appointees to office in his own district, and that the Senators should name all the officers in the districts represented by Democrats, and all the general positions not located in any particular district. Is such an assumption of power warranted either by precedent, justice, or the spirit of our institutions? If it is, then we have no fault to find; but if not, then we must esteem the interference with the appointing power a great wrong, and one which should be disregarded by President Grant. We are free to say that we find nowhere any ground for such an action as that of the Pennsylvania caucus. The Constitution of the United States defines the duties of the several departments of government. The Executive is distinct from the Legislature, and the powers and privileges of the one are entirely independent of the other. The responsibilities of each are different. Members of Congress are selected to legislate. They are to make the laws. As the chosen representatives of the people, they should be entitled to respect; and their opinions of men in their own districts, while not conclusive, are nevertheless of value, because of the confidence which the people have reposed in them. They therefore should be heard in all their utterances with attention. This is all they can demand. The Senators, however, go further than this in their claim of constitutional privileges. They are to advise and consent to the nomination of men to office. The whole Senate is to do this. But they have nowhere the power to leave the advice and consent to two of their number, nor have they any right, except through courtesy, to recommend any one to an appointment. The Constitution is explicit:—"The President shall nominate, and by and with the advice and consent of the Senate shall appoint," etc. When a name comes before them, they have the right to reject the confirmation, but they have no power and no right to say to the President:—"You must not nominate any one without consulting us; if you do, we'll oppose the confirmation." The duty of executing the laws is vested in the President, and in him alone; and as the choice of his own subordinates is essential to his proper responsibility, the selection should be absolutely left with him. No such for the law on the subject. In regard to the expediency of such a course as that proposed, we need not speak.

It is beyond all doubt true that the right of the President to select his own officers is inconsistent with the exercise of the so-called right of the members of Congress, and one which would, if tolerated, reduce the Executive to the attitude of a mere mouthpiece, to say to the Senate words which the Senate should put into his mouth. "Mr. President, we want Mr. Jones as Minister to Italy," say the Senators for a State. And the response is to come thus, "I nominate Mr. Jones." The Senate then confirms. Where, we would like to know, is there any executive power in such a proceeding? Is it not derogatory to the Presidential dignity, and calculated to do away with executive efficiency? Again, it is subversive of the very spirit of our institutions. A member of Congress is sent to Washington to legislate for his constituents, and to represent and obey them. What does he do? He goes and fills the district with his followers and personal friends. He has an assessor, with his assistants, in every ward, and his subordinates in every precinct; a collector, with his score of clerks and deputies; a postmaster, with his clerks; inspectors, supervisors, and all the other officials are named by him. What is the result? He has just so many men bound to follow him and work for him, and as they live off of him, they seek to secure his re-nomination. He makes himself the head of a band of men who live on his favor. The patronage of the Government is not, therefore, divided so as to effect most good in the public service, but so as to most strengthen the reigning prince. The people are slighted and ignored, and the whole district, with its 120,000 residents and 20,000 voters, circles around one man, and he a servant elected for an entirely different purpose. All this is decidedly wrong. It is calculated to crush out all vitality in any party, and make it the follower of its members of Congress. We say, therefore, that if the claims of the Congressmen be allowed, we will have the spirit of the Constitution ignored, and a class of henchmen will be put in office who owe allegiance to the Congressmen alone. The same is true of the appointments at large and the Senatorial selections. We say that these gentlemen were not chosen by the people to appoint. They were elected to pass laws. Had the gift of office been their object, the same selections would not have been made, and many a member who writes himself "M. C." would have been denied that privilege. We chose General Grant to make the

nominations of the office-holders. On him rests the responsibility of a proper selection. If bad men are put in, he will be held responsible, and not the Congressmen. He should remember this, and also remember that the people look to him for an efficient execution of the laws.

We have spoken freely, because we feel, as citizens, that a dangerous precedent is possibly about to be established, and one which will ignore the popular voice, and be an injury to the administration and to the public service.

Suspicious.

SENATOR CONNELL, it will be remembered, is the member of the State Legislature who was particularly desirous of providing for a friend, by creating the office of Receiver of Taxes for the Twenty-third ward. It therefore behooves us to keep an eye on Senator Connell, and to scan the measures introduced by him somewhat narrowly, to see what there is in them. On Thursday Mr. Connell introduced a bill to incorporate the Steam Heating Fuel Company of Philadelphia, which is at least open to suspicion. We have not seen the full text of this bill, but the brief mention of it in the regular telegraphic summary of the legislative proceedings is sufficient to establish its bad character, in the absence of any evidence to the contrary. The bill offered by Mr. Connell proposes to incorporate J. M. Rogers, J. P. Ross, B. W. Olive, and others, as the Steam Heating Fuel Company of Philadelphia, with a capital of \$500,000, and—here we perceive a reptile of gigantic dimensions—with power to dig trenches in, along, and across any streets, alleys, etc., to enable them to lay pipes for the distribution of steam heating fuel.

The powers which it was proposed to delegate to a certain weighing company were nothing to this. The Cattle bill is a mere trifle in comparison, and the proposed exemption of the Eleventh street mineral ball from the provisions of the law requiring the passage-ways and lobbies of places of amusements to be kept free from obstructions could only be considered as a piece of legislative facetiousness.

It is bad enough to have all the streets of the city given over to the passenger railway corporations; but there is a tradition that sets in time become accustomed to being skinned, and our legislators are apparently of the opinion that the citizens of Philadelphia are by this time educated up to the idea that they have no rights in their own streets which legislators and corporations are bound to respect; or if they are not educated up to this point, they ought to be.

RELIGIOUS NOTICES.

- HALL YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION. No. 1210 CHESTNUT STREET. The Monthly Meeting of the Association will be held on Monday Evening at 8 o'clock. Essay by Rev. John W. Mead, D. D. Subject—Public Morality of the Statesman of the Free Republic. Subject for discussion—Is a Republican Form of Government Feasible in this Country, and High Character of Statesmen and Office-holders essential to its successful maintenance? Vocal and instrumental music. The public are invited.
- REV. WILLIAM C. CULLEN WELLS. Preaching at the Methodist Episcopal Church, 10th and Arch streets, Philadelphia, on Sunday, March 28th, at 10 A. M. Subject—The Christian's Duty to the World. Communion after the service. At 7 P. M. subject, "The Christian's Duty to the World." In the evening, a Lecture on "The Christian's Duty to the World." All are cordially invited.
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SPECIAL NOTICES.

- COLD WEATHER DOES NOT CHAFE. A NEW REMEDY FOR THE SKIN. WRIGHT'S ALCOHOLIC OILY BALM FOR SORE THROAT, BRUISES, AND ALL THE AFFECTIONS OF THE SKIN. It is a delicate, fragrant, and perfectly safe remedy. It is sold by all Druggists. No. 624 CHESTNUT STREET.
- NOTICE.—I AM NO LONGER EXTRACTING TEETH WITHOUT PAIN FOR THE COLONIAL ASSOCIATION. Persons wishing teeth extracted absolutely without pain by Fresh Nitrous Oxide Gas, will find me at No. 107 WALNUT STREET. Charges suit all. DR. F. R. THOMAS.
- COFFEES ROASTED ON A NEW PRINCIPLE, retaining all the aroma and true flavor, are the best. On sale by FAIRTHORNE & CO., No. 305 N. NINTH and No. 1030 MARKET STREET.
- JAMES E. MURDOCH'S "EVENING WITH THE PORTS," BORTICULTURAL HALL, TUESDAY EVENING, March 23, 1869. Secured Seats, Fifty Cents, at Trumpier's Music Store, No. 926 Chestnut Street. Tickets held for Monday, March 9, will secure seats on this occasion. 2 25 41
- THE WOMEN'S NATIONAL ART ASSOCIATION will hold their third exhibition in April, 1869, in HANSLINE'S NEW GALLERY, No. 1123 CHESTNUT STREET. The object of this exhibition is to stimulate and encourage women in the pursuit of art, to acquaint the public with the efforts they are making, and to engage the sphere of employment for them in the various directions art affords. Contributions received for exhibition will consist of pictures, original or copied, in oil painting, water colors, and pastels; designs, studies, and drawings of all descriptions; sculpture in wax, sculpture models in plaster, wood and steel engravings and lithographs. All women throughout the country engaged in art pursuits, or having work in their possession executed by women, are invited to contribute any of the above-named branches. \$25 71 A prize offered for the best original picture. Entries to be left at the gallery before March 30th.
- CITY TREASURER'S OFFICE. PHILADELPHIA, March 23, 1869. CITY WARRANTS registered during the year 1868 paid on presentation, interest ceasing from date of issue. JOSEPH N. PERKINS, City Treasurer.
- CAMBRIDGE IRON COMPANY.—A Special Meeting of the Stockholders of the Cambridge Iron Company will be held on WEDNESDAY, the 31st inst., at 10 o'clock, at the office of the Company, to take action upon the act of Assembly approved March 16, 1868, amending the Charter of the Company, and the exercise of the power therein granted. JOHN T. KILLE, Secretary.
- DANVILLE, HAZLETON, AND WILKES BARRE RAILROAD COMPANY. The coupons on the Bonds of the above road, due April 1st, will be paid on presentation at the Office of STERLING & WILDMAN, No. 110 S. THIRD STREET.
- THE PHILADELPHIA GERMAN COMPANY. The Board of Managers have this day declared a dividend of FIVE PER CENT on the capital stock of the Company, payable, clear of taxes, on and after the 1st of April next. The transfer books of the Company will be closed on the 10th inst., and remain closed until the 1st of April. J. H. JOHNSON, Treasurer.
- OFFICE OF THE WESTMORELAND COAL COMPANY, No. 330 S. THIRD STREET, CORNER OF WELLS' ALLEY. PHILADELPHIA, March 20, 1869. The Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of the Westmoreland Coal Company will be held at the office of W. H. BROWN, April 7, 1869, at 10 o'clock A. M., when an election will be held for eleven Directors to serve for the ensuing year. F. H. JACKSON, Secretary.
- OLD OAKS CEMETERY COMPANY OF PHILADELPHIA. OFFICE, NO. 215 WALNUT STREET. The Company is now prepared to dispose of lots on REASONABLE TERMS. The advantages offered by this Cemetery are well known to be equal if not superior to those possessed by any other Cemetery. We invite all who desire to purchase burial lots to call at the office, where plans can be seen and all particulars will be given. Desires for lots sold are ready for delivery. RICHARD VAUX, President. PETER S. ELLIS, Vice-President. MICHAEL BISHOP, Secretary.
- "A PENNY SAVED IS EQUAL TO TWO EARNED."—The time to save money is when you earn it, and the way to save it is by depositing it in a safe place. The Philadelphia Savings Fund, No. 136 S. FOURTH STREET, now Chestnut Street, in large or small amounts, receives deposits, and issues allowances. Open only from 9 A. M. to 5 P. M. on Monday evenings from 7 to 9 o'clock. JOHN CALDWELL, President.
- ELLIS' IRON BITTERS.—THE MOST POWERFUL AND PAINFUL BITTERS IN THE MARKET. To persons having weak or this blood or suffering from dyspepsia, indigestion, or a general debility, carefully prepared on strict scientific principles by WILLIAM L. ELLIS, Chemist, No. 608 ARCH STREET, PHILADELPHIA. Solely and exclusively everywhere. 24 cents.
- HANG THE WINTER COAT! Good-bye winter overcoat. Hanging on the peg; No more use for you; Say "Good-bye, I beg!" Faithful friend you've been to me, All the winter long; Good-bye, overcoat, and say "Good-bye, I beg!" Good-bye, winter overcoat, Bright shines the sun; Milder the weather is; Your work is done; Hanging in the closet, there, Peacefully stay. I want a lighter overcoat For such a pleasant day. Good-bye, winter overcoat; Overcoats for fall; Overcoats for Spring! Overcoats for short men; Overcoats for tall; Light and stylish overcoats AT GREAT BROWN HALL. Over and over, and over again, and over all your other clothes, you need, moreover, a stylish Spring Overcoat. We have just the thing for the present spring, at styles, lowest prices; come and try our Spring Coat.
- ROCKHILL & WILSON'S GREAT BROWN STONE HALL, Nos. 603 and 605 CHESTNUT STREET, PHILADELPHIA. WINES, ETC. CHOICE TABLE SHERRY AT A LOW PRICE. Another invoice of our well-known TABLE SHERRY, in small casks of 20 gallons each, at \$275 per gallon by the cask, or \$3.00 by the 5 gallon demijohn. The purity of this Wine is unquestionable, and its use is now almost universal.
- SIMON COLTON & CLARKE, IMPORTERS, S. W. Corner BROAD and WALNUT STS., PHILADELPHIA. PEARS, APPLES, AND CHERRIES, Sweet and Standard, in bearing order, made to order for the season, by the following: Address JOHN FRANKLIN, MOORESTOWN, N. J.

A NEW ERA IN THE PHILADELPHIA CLOTHING TRADE.

ON MONDAY, APRIL 5, 1869, JOHN WANAMAKER WILL OPEN TO THE PUBLIC, AS A FINEST

READY-MADE CLOTHING

TAILORING ESTABLISHMENT, THE LARGE BROWNSTONE BUILDINGS (FORMERLY HOMER, COLLADAY & CO.'S), Nos. 818 and 820 CHESTNUT STREET.

BUSINESS WILL BE COMMENCED ON THE ABOVE DAY WITH AN EXPOSITION OF THE FIRST STOCK OF ELEGANT GARMENTS AND FINE GOODS FOR CUSTOM WORK.

This stock has been for some time preparing in New York and our own city, and will embrace all the FINEST SPRING IMPORTATIONS & HOME MANUFACTURES, pieces, for orders and ready-made in a FINE CLASS OF CLOTHING than ever before sold in Philadelphia.

THE ENTIRE PUBLIC INVITED TO EXAMINE. The Ladies will be interested in the BOYS' AND CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT, WHICH IS A PROMINENT FEATURE.

NEW PUBLICATIONS. SECOND EDITION IS NOW READY. HOW HE WON HER. A Sequel to "Fair Play." BY MRS. EMMA D. E. N. SOUTHWORTH. T. B. PETERSON & BROTHERS, PHILADELPHIA.

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